FBI

		Date: 1/1	5/76	
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V 1		(Precedence)		
			ENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGAT	
		KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE, aka	CRIMINAL SECTION TELLIGENCE DIVISION	ON
	·	Denneth Gordon Burnstine	75	2 27
The state of the s		CR EL DIH CRA-64 PA PE DAMV DAMV-FR CAA AP IWFO EID Bomb Threats Extremist Matters	C CWAA FI	
3,	Calif scann When site gun d	White Hate Summary of Complaint: On 1/9/76, subject 882, Hughes Airwest, at Orange Cornia. When his carry-on luggage wer, it was discovered to contain a confronted by authorities, subject and produced credentials that identicaler. He was then allowed to produced, and placed in hold luggage	Black t attempted to lounty Airport, Savas placed in X-loaded automatic explained it was a seed to Phoenix	anta Ana, Ray c pistol. s an over- registered
4 3.		CH 38 T-AAG	1-7 164-4 S REO & 23 JAN	5
2	- Phoen	ACTION: UACB: URE On: //	Copy to: X USA	Service
	Los A WH/srb 5)	Report being submitted Report being submitted Preliminary investigation instituted Limited investigation instituted Investigation continuing		
	Approved:	SentSent	M Per	

LEAD

PHOENIX

AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA. Forward FD-302s reflecting interview of subject.



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California January 15, 1976

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE CARRYING WEAPON ABOARD AIRCRAFT

On January 12, 1976, Lieutenant Airport Detail, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orange County Airport, furnished a report of an incident occurring at about 1:00 PM, January 9, 1976.

Kenneth Gordon Burnstine, 1011 Bayfront, Balboa Island, California, approached the boarding gate for Flight 882, Hughes Airwest, at Orange County Airport. This flight originates at Santa Ana, California, and proceeds to Phoenix, Arizona, arriving at 3:06 PM. Upon placing Burnstine's carry-on bag in the X-ray scanner, it was discovered to contain a handgun. When informed of the discovery of the weapon, the security officer presented the bag and Burnstine to the Hughes Airwest ticket agent, who summoned a Deputy Sheriff. time Burnstine explained this was an oversight and identified himself as a registered gun dealer and produced ATF credentials Burnstine was taken to the Orange County Sheriff's Office Airport Station where the case was unlocked and a fullyloaded Walther PPK .32 caliber automatic pistol was recovered and unloaded by the deputy. At this time the deputy was not aware that Burnstine had attempted to carry the weapon aboard the aircraft and subject was allowed to board the aircraft and proceed to Phoenix with the unloaded weapon placed in the hold luggage.

Burnstine is described as follows:

Race -

White

Birth Data

February 15, 1933 (1935?)

b7C

Illinois Height 51 8"

Weight 185 pounds

Eyes Brown Hair Gray Complexion Light

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In the event additional information of value is developed, your agency will

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE CARRYING WEAPON ABOARD AIRCRAFT

Social Security Number California Driver's

License Number

California Identification and Investigation

Number

FBI Number Occupation 336-24-4887

N4595224

5082628 751 674 F

International Finance and Economic Development Company, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

On January 14, 1976, Assistant U. S. Attorney Deanne Smith, Los Angeles, advised she desired to study a report prior to rendering a prosecutive opinion.

Federal Aviation Administration, was notified of the above.

b6 b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	D	ATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIC	O O			
LOS AMGELES	LOS ANGELES		2/24/76	1/12/76 - 2	2/19/76			
TITLE OF CASE)	R	EPORT MADE BY		1	TYPED BY		
KEMNETH GORDON	BURNSTINE, aka]	jr		
) Denneth Gordon	Burnstine,	C	CHARACTER OF CASE					
Kenneth Bernstein, Kenny Burnstein, Ken Browning			CAA - CARRYING WEAPON					
			(V					10 P
		_						
1								
REFERENCE:	Los Angeles ai	rte	l to the B	ureau dated				
	1/15/76.			•				

LEAD

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: Will follow prosecutive action with Office of U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles.

	AC	COMPLISHMENTS	CLAIMED	⊠ NONE	ACQUIT-	CASE HAS BEEN:
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APPROVED			PECIAL A	GENT	DO N	OT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 USA, Los Angeles (Attn: AUSA DEANNE H. SMITH)
- 1 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division, Los Angeles

1 - Drug Enforcement Administration, Los Angeles

Report of:

Office: Los Angeles, California

Date:

Copy to:

2/24/76

Field Office File #:

164-1392

Bureau File #:

Title:

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE

Character:

CRIME ABOARD AIRCRAFT - CARRYING WEAPON ABOARD AIRCRAFT

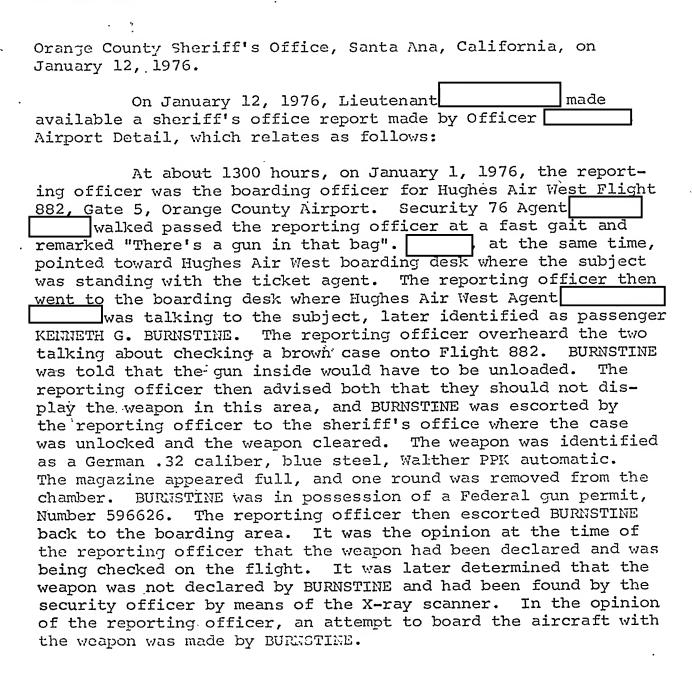
Synopsis:

On 1/9/76, subject attempted to board Hughes Air West Flight 882 at Orange County Airport, Santa Ana, California. When his carry-on luggage was placed in X-ray scanner it was discovered to contain a loaded automatic pistol. When confronted by authorities, subject explained it was an oversight and produced Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division credentials which identified him as a registered gun dealer. When the pistol was unloaded and placed in hold luggage, he was allowed to proceed on flight to Phoenix, Arizona. Criminal history from Drug Enforcement Administration, Los Angeles, California, set out. Subject arrested 12/2/74, for conspiracy to import cocaine and marijuana from Mexico into the United States. subject was convicted and sentenced to serve seven years in custody plus three years special probation on the above Subject was released after posting \$100,000 appeal charge. bond.

DETAILS:

This	investigation	ıis	predicated	upon	receipt	of
	om Lieutenant				Airport	

In the event additional information of value is developed, your agency will be advised,







FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

	1	Date of transcription 1/13/76
	duty on J at the Or place car boarding County Ai one of th	Security Agent, Orange County Santa Ana, California, advised that while on anuary 9, 1976, as a screening guard at Gate #5 ange County Airport, he observed a male individual ry-on baggage on the x-ray baggage machine prior to Hughes Air West Flight #882, en route from Orange rport to Phoenix, Arizona. He observed a gun in e briefcases that this individual had placed on the machine.
	machine a	stated that at this time he removed the case screening machine and put it on a table behind the nd then advised the above male individual that there in the case and that he could not take the case ane.
[the plane the bag t was not e behind in in their sta outer low the board	said he was running a little asmuch as all the other passengers had already checked baggage and were waiting in the on-board lobby area. ted he then left this individual standing in the ange while he took the bag with the gun in it to ling agent, and told him that there in the bag and that the individual wanted to check
	was stand described through, to pass a	stated he then went and advised Deputy range County Sheriff's Office, Airport Detail, who ling near the screening machine where the individual above had moments earlier tried to check his bags and told him that this individual had attempted case containing a gun through the screening machine. The details and the screening machine and Deputy then took this individual to the
Interviewe	ed on	Santa Ana, California File Foos Angeles 164-1392
bv	SA	/kah Date dictoted 1/13/76

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 $\frac{2}{LA}$ 164-1392

Orange County Sheriff's Office Watch Commander's Office, which is located adjacent to Gate #5. _____stated that he then returned to his regular duties. ______ stated that the individual who attempted to board the plane with a gun gave no indication during this time of being upset and made no mention to him that this sort of thing had happened to him before.

b6 b7C

1/13/76 1 Date of transcription_ Orange County Sheriff's Office, Intelligence Detail, Santa Ana, California, advised that he first became aware of the activities of an individual by the name of KENNETH G. BURNSTINE when he observed Deputy , Orange County Sheriff's Office, Airport Detail, escort this individual into the Airport Security Office. stated he then joined Deputy when he learned this individual had a gun in a briefcase and that this individual had attempted to pass this case containing the gun through the x-ray screening machine. stated that in his presence, BURNSTINE opened the case and removed a Walter PPK .32 caliber pistol, removed a loaded clip, and ejected a live round from the chamber. stated that BURNSTINE stated that he was in the gun business and that he worked for three different outfits and that he dealt in the Continental United States exclusively with law enforcement. In addition, he made a comment to the effect that he should be getting used to this sort of thing because he was always transporting machine guns and silencers, etc., and that he even sometimes had to have the pilot transport them in the cockpit. stated when he asked him about silencers in police work, BURNSTINE stated that outside the United States the company he worked for dealt strictly in armament. stated that BURNSTINE then produced a gun permit, stating that he was an authorized gun dealer. He stated that the number on this permit was 1-9901A-00, and also the number 59-6626 appeared on this permit. stated that this entire conversation and interrogation last for only three or four minutes due to the fact that the plane which BURNSTINE was attempting to board had already been boarded by the other passengers and was ready to take off.

Interviewed on 1/13/76 of Santa Ana, California File Los Angeles 164-1392

by SA | Kah | Date dictated 1/13/76

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stated after more detailed facts were determined concerning this matter, the Phoenix Police Department, Phoenix, Arizona, was notified concerning BURNSTINE's traveling to Phoenix with a gum.

	Date of transcription 2/13/76
that on January to Gate 5 for th Phoenix, Arizona ramp and beyond he noticed the s with a person la	Deputy Sheriff, Airport Detail, neriff's Office, Santa Ana, California, advised 9, 1976, he was the boarding officer assigned he boarding of Hughes Air West Flight 882 to a. He stated that he was stationed near the the security scanning device. He stated that security officer, walk passed him ater identified as KENNETH G. BURNSTINE and exet agent for Hughes Air West.
and walked back passing tained a pistol. desk where BURNS have to be unloa informed k this area and es There, BURNSTINE appeared to be f pistol and eject and ammunition w checked onto the	deposited BURNSTINE's briefcase on the desk to his station at the scanning device. In informed him that BURNSTINE's case constated that he approached the ticket STINE was being informed that the weapon would add before being placed on the aircraft. Both that the gun should not be displayed in scorted BURNSTINE into the sheriff's office. E unlocked the case and ejected the clip which fully loaded. I stated that he took the ted a live round from the chamber. The gun were replaced in the case and the case was a flight in the hold luggage. BURNSTINE was dethe plane and continue his trip.
BURNSTINE had at scanner as carry by the security	stated that at the time, he was not aware that ttempted to pass the case through the X-ray y-on luggage, and he had not been so informed officer,
•	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/23/76

1

Mr. KENNETH GORDON BURNSTEIN was interviewed TO CONTROL TO THE TANK OF THE Harlor International Airport (CHIA), Phoenix, Arizona, in reference to a possible violation concerning Carrying Meanon Aboard Aircraft. Prior to interview commencing, BURNSTEIN was made aware of the identities of the interviewing agents by means or credentials and purpose of the interview.

The following descriptive information was obtained from Mr. BURNETLIN:

California drivers

license:

Address:

P.O. Box 35

N4595224

Balboa Island,

California 92652

Race:

white

Sex:

male

Nationality:

. American

Height:

519"

Woi jut:

100

Date of birth:

February 15, 1933

Also in his possession was a Certificate of Authorization, Number 1-9901A-00. This certificate was issued by Buroou of Mechal, Tobacco and Firearns, and had inscribal on it the outliorisation of possession and transportation of fireams. Also inscribed on it were two other numbers, 5y-5525 and 5y-1277577. Also in his possession was a Commercial Pilot's License issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Number 33(0)(0)4. Other identification should EUNICIAN employed by KAROL Investment Corporation out of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Concerning the incident involving possible The state of the second of the second of the second of that he was late getting to the airport at Orange County

Interviewed on 1/0/	73 a Propries Grisona	File # 10 min 154-50
	<u>دنن</u>	
by SA	McR:ront, "	Date dictated 1716/76

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PX 164-383 1162:::::t 2

Airport, Orange County, California. With this he attempted to expedite entrance aboard Hughes Airwest flight 882 bound for Phoenix, Arizona. If. BURNSTEIN stated that because he was in a hurry he did not check his bags in, but brought them directly to the security station which has the x-ray machine in effect. Mr. BURNSTEIN related that prior to passing his baggage through the x-ray machine he brought to the attention of a security girl there that he had a gun in one of his bags which was loaded. Mr. BURNSTEIN stated at this time the security girl took necessary measures to have the gun unloaded and took the bag and had it checked in as regular baggage. Mr. BURNSTEIN stated there appeared to be no noticeable incident with this he proceeded through the x-ray machine and boarded flight 882 for Phoenix.

Mr. BURNSTEIN stated he had no direct intention of bringing the gun aboard the aircraft and that it was his intention of notifying the security guard before he went through the x-ray machine. Mr. BURNSTEIN advised that he is a responsible person and the above incident was nothing more than a carcless oversight

on his part.

On January 13, 1976, Special Agent

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division, Department of the
Treasury, 34 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, California, advised
that his agency was aware of the subject, whom he identified as
KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE, born February 15, 1933, with address
of Post Office Box 35, Balboa Island, California, and residence
1011 North Bay Front, Balboa Island, California. He holds California Driver's License Number M4595224. He stated that if the
subject held a valid gun dealer's certificate issued by the
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division, this would at no time
allow such a dealer to carry concealed weapons.

The FBI Identification Division advised that KENNETH GORDON BURNSTIKE is described as follows:

Sex Male Race White

Date of Birth February 15, 1933

Place of Birth Illinois

Height 5 feet 8 inches

Weight 185 pounds

Hair Gray
Eyes Brown
Complexion Light

Social Security Number 336-24-8874

BURNSTINE had a record of eight arrests on the following offenses: Assault, Stolen Property, Conspiracy Dangerous Drugs, Dangerous Drugs, Flight - Escape, Weapons Offenses, and Public Peace. His last recorded arrest was on December 2, 1974, by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Los Angeles, California. No convictions were recorded.

On February 19, 1976, Special Agent

Drug Enforcement Administration, U. S. Department of Justice,
World Trade Center Building, Los Angeles, California, advised
that KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE was well known to his department
as one of the most powerful and largest drug smugglers operating
in the United States. He stated that BURNSTINE was described as
follows:

Sex Male Race White

Date of Birth February 15, 1933
Height 5 feet 8 inches
Weight 130 pounds

Weight 130 pounds
Hair Gray

Eyes Brown
Occupation Aircraft owner - pilot

Social Security

Account Number 336-24-8874 FBI Number 751 674 F

stated that under the subject's criminal history, in the remarks section, the following information appears:

In November 1973, the subject aircraft owner had planned to smuggle marijuana into the United States from Jamaica utilizing a previously used Maples, Florida, flight strip. In March 1974, an aircraft believed to be part of this operation crashed 20 miles south of Sebring, Florida, killing the pilot, who had previously told his wife that the subject owed him \$5,000. The cargo of this plane was comprised of 3,500 pounds of marijuana.

In June 1974, the subject was the owner of an intrastate airline operating in Florida, which was smuggling large amounts of cocaine, hashish and marijuana from South America to the United States. The subject is also believed importing military hardware into the Bahamas, and was planning to smuggle cocaine from Mexico to the United States. The subject was arrested in October 1974, in Corpus Christi, Texas, with cocaine and other drugs, \$14,000 cash, and jewelry.

The subject was last arrested by Drug Enforcement Administration Agents on December 4, 1974, at Balboa Island,

California. In March 1975, he was convicted on cocaine and marijuana charges in U. S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, and in April 1975, was given a sentence of seven years in a Federal penitentiary, with three years special probation. He was subsequently released after posting a \$100,000 appeal bond.

The subject gave additional addresses of 2101 Middle River Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Post Office Box 11045, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

On January 14, 1976, records of the Newport Beach Police Department, Intelligence Unit, Newport Beach, California, indicated that the subject was believed residing at 1011 North Bay Front, Balboa Island, California, and believed to be employed by the International Finance and Economic Development Corporation, Post Office Box 11045, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He had a local unpublished telephone number of 673-5200. He was last arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration on December 2, 1974, and on June 9, 1975, a tax lien was filed on his residential property at Balboa Island, California, in the amount of \$879,965.

The summer 1975 edition of "Drug Enforcement", the official intelligence publication of the Drug Enforcement Administration, carried the following article concerning the subject:

Sometimes Kenneth Burnstine can be generous to a fault.

Such was the case on the night of July 12, 1974, in a hotel room at Vera Cruz, Mexico, when he literally took the shirt off his back and gave it in a gesture of friendship to one of two new partners who had just agreed to become his cocaine connection in Mexico.

The partners turned out to be two DEA special agents working undercover. Burnstine's blue, size 42 Mexican Guayabera shirt ended up as a government exhibit when Burnstine went on trial in Miami last February on charges that he had conspired with two other men to import United States.

For Burnstine—a 42-year-old, ex-Marine fighter pilot portrayed by the Florida press as a flamboyant but cool con man-his trial and subsequent prison sentence must, have been; a shattering experience.

Over a period of several years in

Profile of a Florida Drug Runner

which three marihuana-laden aircraft registered to him or his companies went down in crashes, Burnstine protested to the press that he was an innocent victim of unscrupulous pilots who were renting or stealing his planes for unlawful purposes.

"I liken it to Hertz renting a car to a bank robber," he explained in early 1974 in defense of his application to operate Florida Airways International-a charter and leasing firm -- at Fort Lauderdale's Executive Airport. -

. Once he asked a reporter on the Miami Herald:

"Do you think I am going to run a smuggling operation with planes that are registered to companies of which I am the president? What am 1, stupid?"

During the same interview Burnstine joked about how "the Feds" were on his trail. He told the reporter that he was aware his planes were on the suspect list and that their arrivals and departures were carefully monitored.

"It's sort of funny," he said. "I can just see these cats in the tower jumping around and running to the telephone every time I climb into a plane."

Despite his apparent openness, Burnstine resided within the sanctucocaine and marihuana into the ary of a \$650,000 home in Fort Lauderdale. Around it was a chain link fence guarded by a 130-pound lioness. On the iron gates at the entrance was the blunt warning: TRESPASSERS WILL BE EATEN.

> Kenneth Burnstine's downfall began in June 1974 when he decided to expand his drug smuggling to

include the illegal importation of

He got in touch with a former associate who owned property in Mexico and asked for his cooperation in establishing a local base of operations and a cocaine connection. The associate, in cooperation with the government, put him in touch with the two undercover DEA agents.

During their meeting in the hotel at Vera Cruz, Burnstine boasted that his operation was smuggling \$50,-000 worth of marihuana a month into the United States. He said he was now in a position to purchase 80 kilos of cocaine a month.

From a series of meetings and phone calls between the two undercover agents and Burnstine or his representatives, the government was able to assemble a solid conspiracy case for prosecution.

But even at the trial, as it became evident to Burnstine that he had been "outconned," he made an effort to maintain his normally cocky appearance.

"Let's hurry up and get this trial over so I can take you out to dinner," he told pretty Karen Atkinson the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case.

When the jury returned its verdict Burnstine and one other defendant received seven-year sentences. A third defendant was acquitted.

Summarizing the results of the Burnstine trial, one Miami news announcer put it this way:

"Well, folks, here's a story that proves things don't always go better with Coke."

-13- -- Ted Swift

On January 14, 1976, Assistant U. S. Attorney DEANNE H. SMITH, Los Angeles, California, advised that she desired to study a report prior to rendering a prosecutive opinion in this matter.

3 ;

FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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1 - USA, Los Angeles

1 - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Division, Los Angeles

1 - Drug Enforcement Administration,

Los Angeles

Report of:

Copy to:

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Office: Los Angeles, California

Date:

5/12/76

Field Office File #:

164-1392

Bureau File #:

Title:

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE

Character:

CRIME ABOARD AIRCRAFT - CARRYING WEAPON

ABOARD AIRCRAFT

CALIFI

Synopsis:

on 5/7/76, AUSA, Los Angeles, declined prosecution in this matter in that facts of this case do not present a proper vehicle for successful prosecution.

- C -

DETAILS:

On April 2, 1976, Assistant United States Attorney DEANNE H. SMITH, Los Angeles, California, advised that she had not yet arrived at a prosecutive decision in this matter.

On May 7, 1976, Assistant United States Attorney DEANNE H. SMITH (supra), advised that she would decline prosecution in that the facts of this case, at best, would constitute a misdemeanor and that she did not believe the elements in this matter constituted a proper vehicle for successful prosecutive action.